Strategy 1: Brainstorming and

Discussion

***Pages 1 – 8 first edition and Pages 11-20 second edition***

Math Problem

Your job in this mathematical contest is to decide who will win the final tug-of-war. The first two rounds give you the information you need.1

The First Round

On one side there are four acrobats who have come down to the ground during the off-season for this special event. They have well-developed arm muscles because of all the swinging they do, and have proven themselves to be of equal strength.

On the other side are five neighborhood grandmas, a tugging team that has practiced together for many, many years. They, too, are all equal in strength. In the contest between these two teams, the result is dead even. Neither team can out tug the other.

The Second Round

One team is Ivan, the specially trained dog that got his start as a pup when he was taken out for a walk by his owner. Ivan gets pitted against a team made up of two of the grandmas and one acrobat.

Again, it’s a draw – an equal pull.

The Final Round

It’s the final tug that you must figure out. It will be between these two teams: Ivan and three of the grandmas on one side, the four acrobats on the other. Can you figure out who will win this tug of war?

Work space to solve the final round:

**Questions:**

How did the activity involve you in the problem solving?

How might this be a worthwhile activity for students?

How is learning enhanced when you let students discuss the different ways they solved a problem?

**Application of Worksheets Don’t Grow Dendrites**

Think about 3 ways you might integrate brainstorming and discussion into your daily lesson.

1.

2.

3.